

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK OCHI

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

*Celebrating...***25th**
ISSUE

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Pakistani Architect

YASMEEN LARI

who has built more than
45,000 homes from mud,
lime and bamboo

Art Gallery

Poem

Amazing to Know

Tarot Reading



THE LADY
LAUGHTER
MAESTRO

**DIANA
SILVESTER**

IN CHAT WITH **ANNIE SMITHA**



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It is with a great deal of pride that we celebrate the 25th issue of INKochi and its continuing success as a leading online cultural publication and first of its kind from Kerala in the field of art, craft, culture, history, heritage, environment, food, nature, photography, book & cinema reviews, travel & tourism, history etc ;.

We would like to think that continuity in editorial policy alongside high editorial standards has played a substantial part in shaping the contribution INKochi has made to the field.

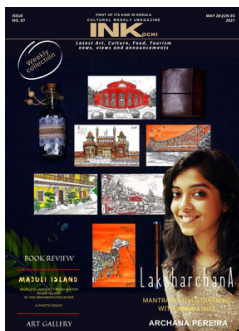
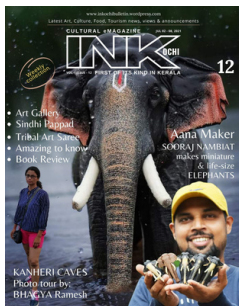
As we celebrate 25 issues of the magazine and look forward at the same time, we would like to acknowledge and thank all in the editorial desk who have made tremendous contributions to the magazine over the period: our army of readers and advertisers; and of course our many authors. As present editor and Publisher, I would like to pay particular tribute to the colleagues who have given valuable time and considerable effort to reviewing submissions. It remains one of the most gratifying aspects of the editorial role that, more often than not, we have been able to provide authors with the kind of detailed feedback and supportive critiques from reviewers that we appreciate receiving ourselves.

Thank you all once again for all the support given to INKochi and looking forward for more support in the future.



Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

25th ISSUE



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TRULY INDIAN TEA STORIES



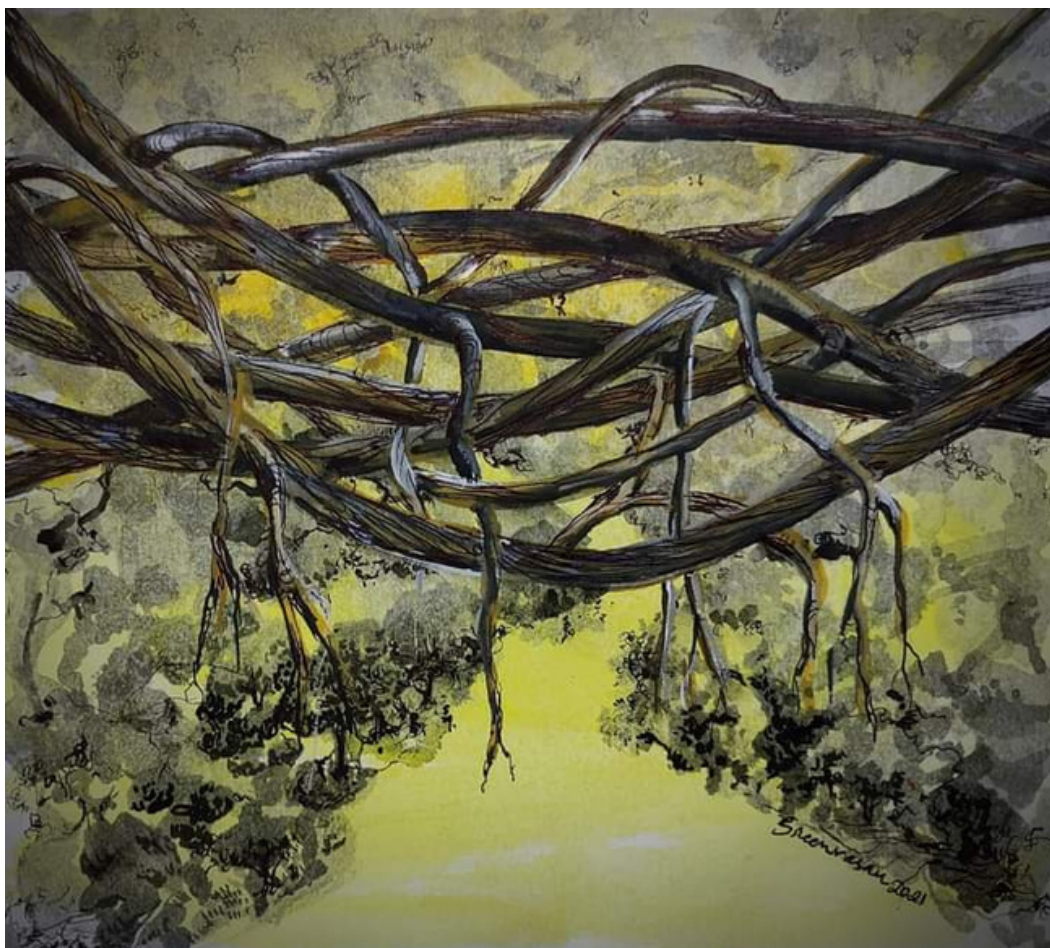
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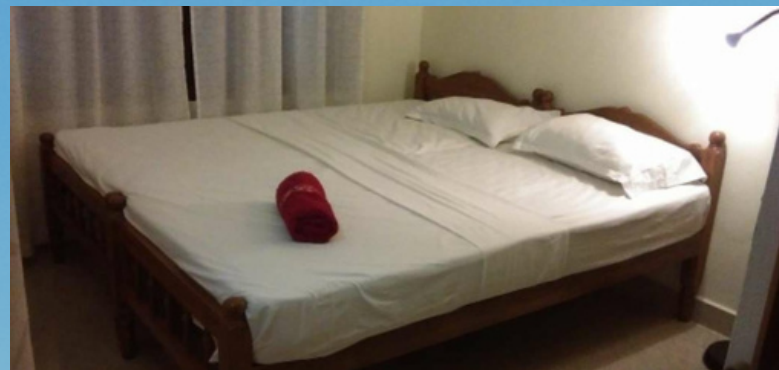
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PAKISTANI ARCHITECT

YASMEEN LARI

Text: Jennifer Hahn



A return to traditional materials and construction techniques could help eliminate carbon emissions, says Pakistani architect Yasmeen Lari, who has built more than 45,000 homes from mud, lime and bamboo.

Designed for victims of natural disasters in Pakistan, the homes, built since 2005, form "the world's largest zero-carbon shelter programme," according to the RIBA.

"You're building something that's really affordable but at the same time there are no carbon emissions," Lari told.

"There are lots of ancient wisdoms and techniques that have been used over the years but I can't imagine most so-called starchitects would even look at them."

"We have to rethink everything"

YASMEEN LARI



Lari, who became the first woman to qualify as an architect in Pakistan in 1963, was responsible for designing some of the country's landmark commercial buildings such as the Finance and Trade Centre and the Pakistan State Oil House.

But since she retired and closed her practice in 2000, Lari has been advocating for a different kind of "barefoot social architecture", which uplifts impoverished communities while treading lightly on the planet.

This involves substituting expensive, emissions-intensive materials such as concrete and steel, which need to be transported to site, with local ingredients that are low-carbon, low-cost and have been used in vernacular constructions for thousands of years.

"When you feel that you're a starchitect who knows everything, then you are not looking at the past at all," said Lari, who last year won the Jane Drew Prize for raising the profile of women in architecture.

"Most of the time, you're looking at the future and the future has always been very shiny," Lari added. "I built these buildings in the 1980s, which were shiny, lots of cement, lots of steel, reflective glass and all the rest of it."

YASMEEN LARI



"But that was a different time and a different world altogether. With climate change, with global warming, with Covid-19, we have to rethink everything and we must do it now."

"Every family in Pakistan" could build a shelter"

Lari studied architecture at Oxford Brookes University before returning to her home country of Pakistan, where she has lived ever since.

She began her work in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in 2005, when one of the most destructive earthquakes of modern times ravaged the region of Kashmir, killing more than 80,000 people and leaving 3.5 million homeless.

In the absence of sufficient aid money, Lari developed a blueprint for a shelter that could be built by anyone using traditional mud construction.

"There was donor fatigue and there was no other way to do it except to follow my technique," she recalled.

Since then, the 80-year-old has trained thousands of locals in how to erect these shelters through the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, which she co-founded with her husband, as well as via open-source YouTube tutorials.

YASMEEN LARI



"Every family in Pakistan can do it, even below the poverty line," she said. "And we have more than 50 per cent of our population living below the poverty line."

Over time, the huts were adapted to withstand different natural disasters. Some are raised on stilts to protect from flooding and most feature cross-braced bamboo frames, based on a traditional construction technique known as dhijji, which do not endanger life during earthquakes.

We've had so many of these disasters, almost every year," Lari said. "I'm very conscious of climate change impacts because we are probably the fifth or seventh in line for disasters."

"But this has given me the opportunity to work with different materials, which are local and natural," she added.

"And it turns out that they're all pretty good from [a carbon] point of view."

"It can be reused 100 times"

This helps to create buildings that can withstand the effects of global warming without further contributing to it.

Even though Lari hasn't undertaken a full lifecycle assessment of the shelters, she believes they are at least carbon-neutral.

YASMEEN LARI



"I can't say that I've done any kind of evaluation but I do know that earth has no carbon emissions," she said. "It's locally sourced, it's biodegradable, it can be reused 100 times."

Lari's other material is lime, which was employed by the Romans as an ingredient in concrete and used to build monuments including the Pantheon in Rome.

Lime is produced by heating limestone, which is a type of calcium carbonate. This releases the carbon into the atmosphere and leaves behind calcium oxide.

This compound, also called quicklime, is then mixed with water. And as the mixture hardens, it reabsorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The lime continues to recarbonate throughout its lifetime, slowing turning back into limestone and reducing its carbon impact.

"The more you use it, the more carbon is absorbed," Lari said.

The bamboo Lari uses to reinforce her buildings is a fast-growing renewable resource that sequesters CO₂ throughout its life.

YASMEEN LARI



"I do use a little bit of steel like hinges and bolts and so on," Lari said. "But I am presuming that whatever little emissions there might be are counteracted by these materials."

According to the architect, her design also helps to keep the operational carbon footprint of the building low, due to the natural insulation provided by the earth and the ventilation via the thatched roof.

"I understand that not everybody will use bamboo and lime and earth but everybody can make an effort to lower the carbon footprint in every kind of structure," Lari said.

"Why is it that instead of cement we're not using lime in buildings? There are lots of different permutations that are possible and we can use them. But the problem is that architects are not thinking in that way."

Carbon revolution

This article is part of Dezeen's carbon revolution series, which explores how this miracle material could be removed from the atmosphere and put to use on earth.

The sky photograph used in the carbon revolution graphic is by Taylor van Riper via Unsplash.

amazing to know

One of the most fascinating geological

Laser or erosion? Find out what caused the perfect split in Saudi Arabia's Al Naslaa rock. Deep in the Tayma Oasis in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk province lies a 4,000-year-old rock formation with an unusual feature: It is split down the middle by a straight cut with the precision of a laser beam.

The Al Naslaa rock is made up of two sandstones supported by a naturally-formed pedestal with a perfect slit down the middle. While the exact cause of the split has yet to be determined, windblown sand and periodic rain could have created the unusual shape.

However, that has not stopped a few social media users from speculating that the desert's ancient inhabitants could have used laser beams to cut the rock in half.

"Nobody knows for sure how it happened. Some say that ancient civilizations may have been more advanced than our history books tell us."

Photographer: Zazah Ardyin
Source : Alarabiya.l



amazing to know

KUMBHALGARH FORT KUMBHALGARH, RAJASTHAN

Reflecting the endeavours of Maharana Kumbha, Kumbhalgarh accepts its name gratefully from the king himself. As an able ruler, erudite scholar, a great warrior and an architecture expert, Maharana Kumbha was bestowed with numerous titles, including Maharajadhiraj, Rairaj, Raneraj, Daanguru, Shailguru, Chapguru, Halguru, and more.

According to an important literary source, Ekling Mahatmya, composed by Kanha Vyasa, the king was well read in the four Vedas, Smritis and the Upanishads, and he himself wrote many books, and composed songs.

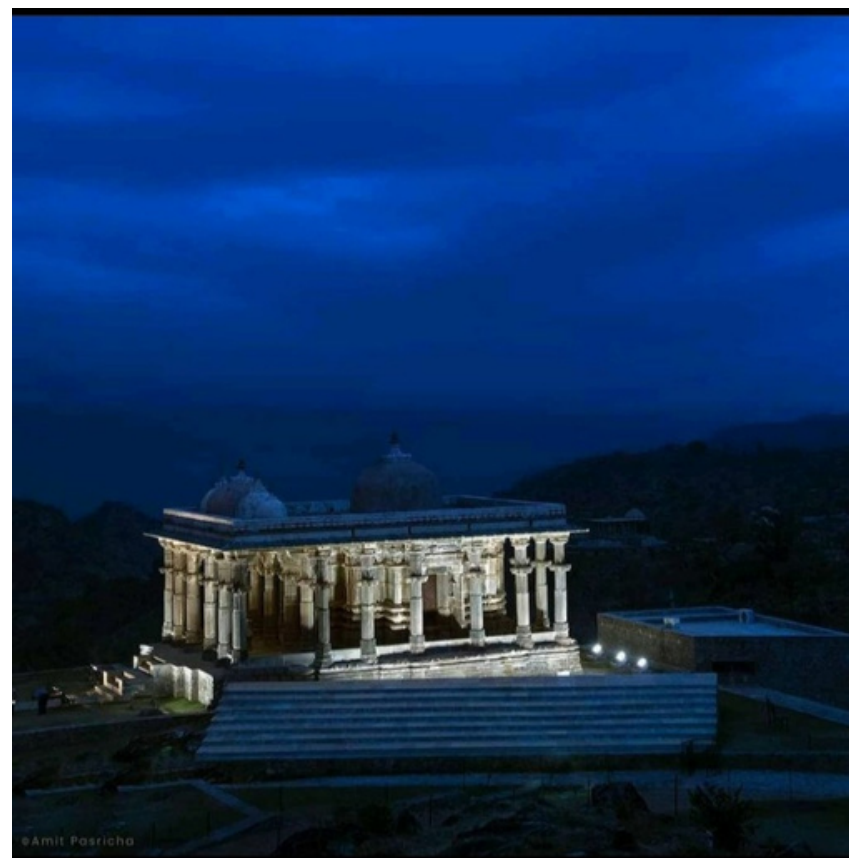
Music compositions by Maharana Kumbha include Sangeetraj, Sood Prabandha and Rasik Priya (a Mewar dialect commentary of Geet Govind, originally written in Sanskrit). He is also credited for popularizing the new genre of music called "Kumbh Malhar". In the arena of dance, the king's book 'Nritya Ratna Kosh' provides a detailed description of the postures involved in acting, validating his knowledge about dance.

His fated demise was at the hands of his own son, Udai Singh I, due to the greed of power, on the 10th day of Magh month (December-January), Vikram Samvat 1525 (1468 CE). Maharana Kumbha breathed his last at Mamadev Temple, Kumbhalgarh.

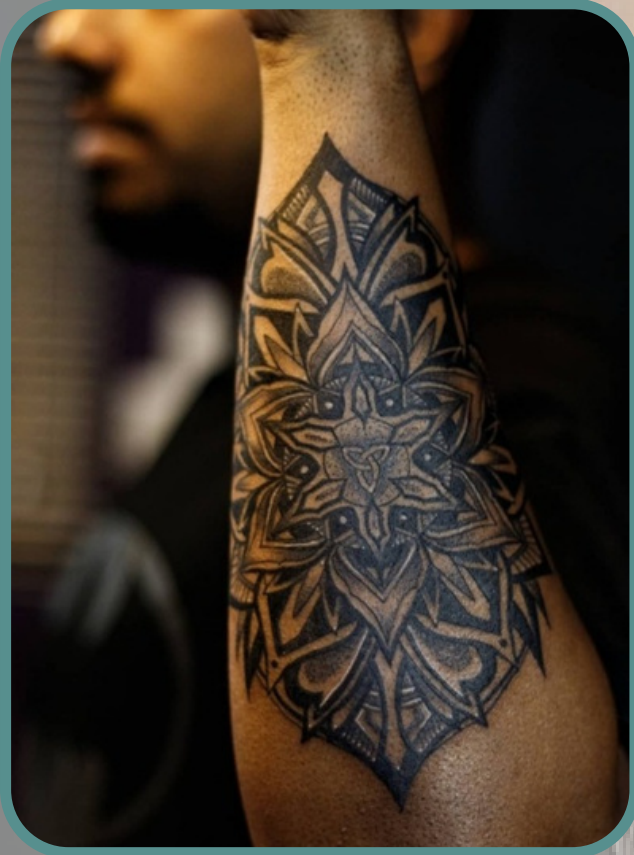
The archeological proof of Maharana Kumbha's reign and character can be traced through the iron penned stone inscriptions. These eulogistic inscriptions or "Prashastis", issued by the rulers, were written in the form of a poetry or ornate prose, which were generally composed by the court poets. They narrate the genealogies of the kings and list the military achievements and architectural patronage extended by them.

The Kumbhalgarh Prashashti is one such example, which dates to Vikram Samvat 1517, and resides in the premises of the great fort, engraved on the five large stones at the Mamadev Temple. The first stone mentions the temples, religious centres and water sources, and the other stones narrate the history of the dynasty from the reign of Bappa Rawal to Maharana Kumbha.

Thought by ILF Expert Aabdika Sharma



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COVER

IN CHAT WITH **ANNIE SMITHA**THE LADY
LAUGHTER
MAESTRO**DIANA
SILVESTER**DAUGHTER
OF KOCHI

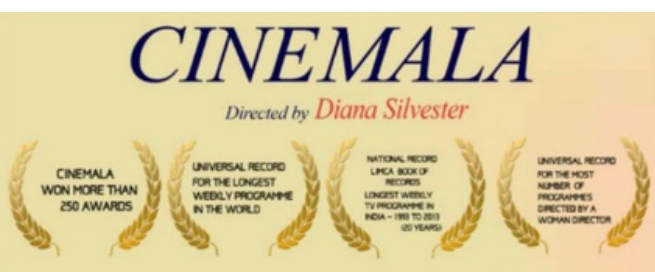
Text: Annie Smitha

Diana Silvester is the name of the creator and director of the television show *Cinemala* that made Malayalees across the globe use 43 muscles to laugh their heart out for twenty years. Diana holds the world record of woman producer-director with highest number of shows which is recognised by the Universal Records Forum.



DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER OF KOCHI



Kochi never fails to leave a trail in the minds of its visitors with its colourful horizon, beautiful beaches, Chinese fishing nets, heritage buildings, the street art and so on. Beyond the scenic beauty and the musty scented buildings, what makes Kochi different for Kochiites from other places of Kerala is its unique culture, which enables a child to grow up never feeling the weight of being born - he or she. Here is someone from Kochi who reached the top of the world and attributes her success to the great support of her family. Diana Silvester is the name of the creator and director of the television show *Cinemala* that made Malayalees across the globe use 43 muscles to laugh their heart out for twenty years. **She holds the world record of woman producer-director with highest number of shows which is recognised by the Universal Records Forum.**

Genius is consistency

A big bindhi and a jovial smile, I don't know what riveted my attention to her the first time I saw this woman of substance. Someone whispered in my ear-"That's Diana Silvester, the director and Producer of your favourite show *Cinemala*". A child back then, I did not know the complexities of being a director and producer of a comedy show, but her image and name got imprinted in my mind. Even as I sat conversing with her through phone resulting in this write up, I couldn't simply deny the positive vibe that she spread making me nostalgic about my own childhood in Kochi.

DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER OF KOCHI



The amiable director-producer revelled as she reminisced her school days. She studied in St Mary's Anglo Indian School, Fort Kochi till her high school where children belonging to different cultures studied together-Anglo Indians, Jews, Konkanis, Gujaratis and so on. Born into a family of artists and art lovers, Diana could not fathom a world without it. She actively participated in dance, music and drama. Her childhood passion was to become a Drummer and a Footballer.

DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER OF KOCHI



A shift from the Convent school to Gujarati School, Mattancherry, Kochi, owing to a change in syllabus gave her a different experience. She loved the Gujarati celebrations and enjoyed the multicultural bash which was every single day. It was the best two years of her school life. She was the school Head girl and initiated several things. Diana introduced western dance at school where children used to perform only the traditional ones until then. She was a Throw-ball player and captained the school team for the district level competition.

Diana continued being a leader even at College. She was the Vice-Chairman of the student council at Cochin College where she did her Pre-Degree. **“She was the fashionista of her youth with a fan trail of girls wanting to imitate her style”** said one of her juniors at College. Diana also played Congo-drums during this period which also added to her popularity. She pursued her graduation (BA - English Literature) at St Teresa’s College, Kochi, and tried her hand at playing Jazz drums. Her brother Roger Paul Silvester - a singer, guitarist and drummer trained her. The brother-sister duo bagged the first and second places respectively for the best drummer at the University competition.



DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER OF KOCHI



They had a Musical band named 'Instinct'. Those were the euphoric days filled with dance and music. Destiny took a different turn when she was doing her first year in MA-English Literature at Sacred Hearts College, Kochi, in the form of a scholarship from the US.

She was homesick and didn't quite get her legs fitted into learning Computer Science. It was her father who then suggested that learning Media Communication would be a good idea. He had actually foreseen the beginning of a new era of private satellite television channels.

Thus Diana studied Media Communication in the USA and India received a great talent. During her three year course in the Governors State University, Illinois, USA, she was the President of the International Students Organisation. Her organisational skills received another boost when a major event named the 'World comes to GSU' took off under her leadership attracting the biggest audience during the time period of her studies.

Food fest, exhibitions- multicultural extravaganza – the event received such appreciation that it found a place in prominent Newspapers of the USA at the time.

Diana Silvester joined Asianet at its inception shortly after returning from the USA. In fact, senior journalist Shashikumar, the founder of India's first regional satellite TV channel in Kerala – Asianet, identified her potential and entrusted her the responsibility of conceiving and conceptualising programmes. The brain behind the first four programmes aired through Asianet was Diana. She created and directed the first four programmes- *Playback*, *ABC*, *Priyamulla Paattukal* and *Cinemala*-which were instant hits.

DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER
OF KOCHI

It was all the way up the success ladder for Diana. A no frills person known for her professionalism and discipline, **she went on to receive more than 250 awards and recognitions including 'The Limca Book of Records'** for *Cinemala* as the longest running weekly Television Programme. *Cinemala* completed more than 1000 episodes bringing a number of talented artists to the threshold of Mollywood. She is also credited with introducing the first reality show in Kerala, in the form of Talent Scan- an intercollegiate Cinematic Choreo-video competition which was so popular among the youth. ***Badai Bungalow*** yet another of her popular shows which the Malayali audience embraced with both hands.



This lady laughter maestro have also produced a number of noteworthy documentaries. ***Charakathayile jeevikkunna Rakthasaakshikal* won many National and International recognitions.**

Diana's father who worked in Saudi Arabia had the greatest collection of Hindi songs, Gazals and even western music. Her house-a gathering place for the local artists including the likes of vocalist Umbai . She was an ardent music lover and developed a compassion for the lesser known artists who never received their due in their times.

A documentary about the Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib resulted in the government noticing the dilapidated state of the poet's house and surroundings. It is now renovated and is turned into a tourist spot in Chandni Chauk-Ghalib ki Haveli. Another documentary, the one about Mehboob also stands out in popularising the man who could spontaneously create music and sing in any slang.

DIANA SILVESTER

DAUGHTER OF KOCHI





DIANA SILVESTER
DAUGHTER
OF KOCHI

She also took some famous interviews which she shot with her own handy cam. Diana remembers with joy and pride interviewing the former Indian President K.R. Narayanan in the early days of her career and how delighted the President was with the camera which was rare in those days. She also interviewed Sonia Gandhi who had just entered into Politics back then.

Diana never felt threatened in her career which is generally considered to be male dominated. She was always respected by people around her and reiterates that will power, passion, dedication, attitude and upbringing is what matters in keeping people in their own places. ***"I like to be known as the woman who created comedy for the longest period because making people laugh is not easy"***, she said. As we wait for more from this modest, humble lady in the backstage, let me pause for a short while.



Annie Smitha

Independent Writer

Poet / Educator

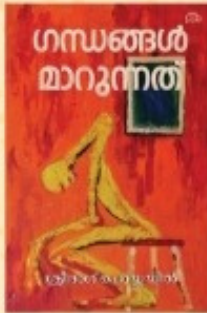
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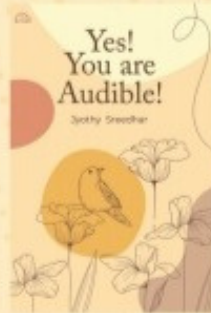
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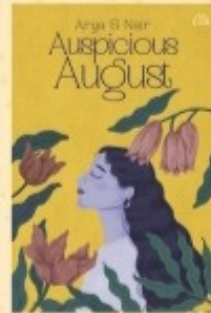
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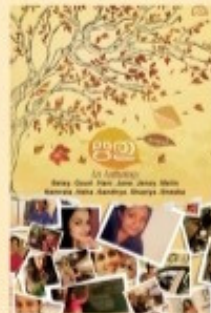
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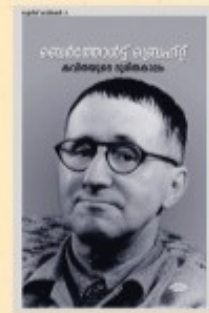
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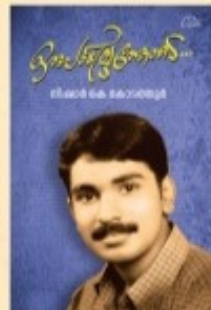
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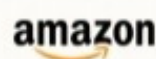
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Poem



The room became ordinary again

the night you left.

It returned
to its straight-backed walls
and its small doors.

The floor somehow
was stone again

and the one window
that looked out
turned into the grain
of waiting.

As the sacrament
of your voice slowly left
the door step

everything that had
been briefly mystified
by a strange hand
returned to this world.

When I came back
to my room knowing
it no longer housed miracles,
that you were no longer mine

I could feel the body
of every thing turn
into bread, the blood
of every hour turn
into wine.

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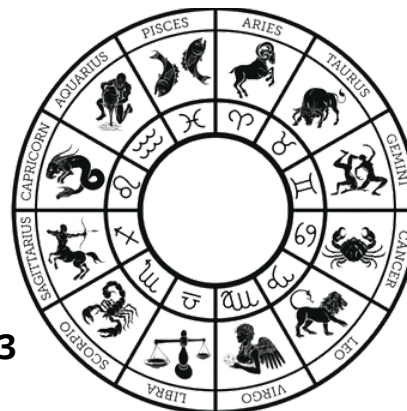




WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: **Chaitali Mukherjee**

<https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313>



**Your Next
7 Days**
Oct 01-07, 2021

Close your ears to gossip don't let anyone condition your values or projects. Relationship with someone who does not deserve you. Change your mind! There could be someone taking advantage of your goodwill. With a little courage all will go well.

ARIES

LIBRA

A spiritual agreement based on the association of values and projects. Starting of a romantic situation. A short trip with a person you love. Dreams can be realized in career. An employee or collaborator will be of great help.

You will do well to sustain your projects against everybody's wishes. You have what it takes to succeed. You just need time, eventually fruits of labour will become evident. A relationship will become serious. There could be an escape from danger.

TAURUS

SCORPIO

An interview or an assignment will take you away from home. Big changes are underway in your career. You are being talked about with esteem and respect. A good news will give you happiness and extra income.

A surprise news or proposal brought by a person. A great time of being respected and recognized at work place. A good financial situation. A couple crisis will get sorted. Gifts and invitations or unexpected birth on the cards.

GEMINI

SAGITTARIUS

Put more courage and enthusiasm in what you do and you will get results. You have brilliant plans waiting to be executed, a master stroke will secure a job or a contract. Time of hard work, profit and progress.

After a stressful period time to rest. If you have to leave something, depart without regret. Wider horizons are awaiting you. A surprise movement or trip. A job can take you away from home. Buying, selling and acquisition of home away from the city.

CANCER

CAPRICORN

A period of happiness. Don't doubt the love around you. Lot of admiration and respect at your work place. Good earnings through creative activity. A loan from a friend or inheritance saves you from troubles. A time to go full steam towards fortune & benefits.

Success proportional to the speed of action. By keeping on the move and accepting relocation or transfers you will progress faster. A stroke of genius will resolve a tangled situation at work. Promotion and well deserved recognition.

LEO

AQUARIUS

A positive transformation is happening in the professional sphere. A proposal, interview or appointment will result in a trip. Good collaborations, respect from colleagues. A long love affair will get to the next level.

Realize your ambition in parallel to others. Focus your energy on your commitments. With good work method you will have time for love, friends and fitness. You will get ample recognition & confirmations, secure income and credit recoveries.

VIRGO

PISCES

A peaceful moment after gruelling work. Deep intimate friendship turns into love. Charm and spontaneity win your liking of influential people. Caution and intelligence keeps you economically stable. A close shave with danger.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage

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